

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 10, 17-19, 22, 24, 53-56, 58, and 61 are allowed.

1. (Previously presented) A ballistic barrier preventing penetration by a foreign body in combination with an outer shell of an aircraft, the outer shell defining the interior of the aircraft, the ballistic barrier in combination with the outer shell comprising:

at least one layer of fabric disposed in the interior of the aircraft, wherein the at least one layer of fabric is capable of absorbing kinetic energy of the foreign body, the at least one layer of fabric being substantially positioned towards the interior of the aircraft with respect to the outer shell and at a finite distance away from the outer shell, and wherein the at least one layer of fabric is composed of one or more ballistic material selected from a group consisting of aramid, polyethylene and phenylenebenzole.
2. (Previously presented) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one layer of fabric includes a plurality of plies.
3. (Previously presented) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 2, wherein one of the plurality of plies is a felt, the felt being positioned outward of the remaining plies with respect to the interior.
4. (Previously presented) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 2, wherein at least one of the plurality of plies includes woven fibers.
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6. (Previously presented) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one layer of fabric is fire resistant.
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8. (Previously presented) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 1, wherein the foreign body includes projectile or fragment munitions.
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10. (Previously presented) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 1, wherein the aircraft includes an inner panel, and wherein the at least one layer of fabric is positioned between the outer shell and the inner panel of the aircraft.
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17. (Previously presented) A ballistic barrier in combination with an outer housing of a structure, the outer housing defining an interior, for protecting objects in the interior of the structure from damage, the ballistic barrier in combination with said outer housing comprising:

two or more layers of fabric disposed in the interior of the structure, the two or more layers of fabric being substantially positioned towards the outer housing of the structure and at a finite distance away from said outer housing of the structure, wherein at least one layer of fabric is capable of absorbing kinetic energy of a foreign body; and

wherein a first of the two or more layers of fabric is a felt, the felt being positioned toward the outer housing of the structure with respect to the other layers of fabric.

18. (Previously presented) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 17, wherein at least one of the two or more layers of fabric is composed of one or more ballistic material selected from a group consisting of aramid, polyethylene and phenylenebenzole.

19. (Previously presented) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 17, wherein one of the two or more layers of fabric is fire resistant.

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22. (Previously presented) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 17, wherein the structure includes a vehicle.

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24. (Previously presented) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 17, wherein the structure includes an aircraft.

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41. ~~(Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 40, wherein one of the plurality of plies is a felt, the felt being positioned outward of the remaining plies with respect to the interior~~ A method for protecting objects in an interior of a structure from damage, the structure having an outer shell defining the interior of the structure, the method comprising:

positioning at least one layer of fabric in the interior of the structure towards the outer shell of the structure and at a finite distance

away from the outer shell, wherein the at least one layer of fabric is capable of absorbing a kinetic energy of a fragment or a projectile; and

attaching the at least one layer of fabric to the structure such that the at least one layer of fabric is substantially positioned towards the interior of the structure with respect to the outer shell and at a finite distance away from the outer shell such that upon impact from the fragment or the projectile the fabric tends to detach from the structure, the at least one layer of fabric composed of one or more ballistic material selected from a group consisting of aramid, polyethylene and phenylenebenzole;

wherein the at least one layer of fabric includes a plurality of plies;

wherein one of the plurality of plies is a felt, the felt being positioned outward of the remaining plies with respect to the interior.

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53. (Previously presented) A ballistic fire barrier in combination with a vehicle, the vehicle having an outer shell defining an interior, the ballistic fire barrier in combination with the vehicle comprising:

two or more layers of fire resistant fabric disposed in the interior of the vehicle and substantially fixedly positioned towards the interior of the vehicle with respect to the outer shell of the vehicle and at a finite distance away from the outer shell, wherein a first of the two or more layers of fire resistant fabric is capable of absorbing kinetic energy of a fragment or a projectile and a second of the two or more layers of fire resistant fabric is a felt, the second layer being positioned outward of the first layer with respect to the interior of the vehicle.

54. (Previously presented) The ballistic fire barrier as recited in claim 53, wherein at least one of the two or more layers of fire resistant fabric includes a plurality of plies.
55. (Previously presented) The ballistic fire barrier as recited in claim 53, wherein at least one of the two or more layers of fire resistant fabric is composed of one or more ballistic material selected from a group consisting of aramid, polyethylene and phenylenebenzole.
56. (Previously presented) The fire barrier as recited in claim 53, wherein the fire resistant fabric is detachably fixed to a frame disposed between the outer shell and an inner panel such that upon impact from the fragment or the projectile the fire resistant fabric tends to detach from the frame.

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58. (Previously presented) The ballistic fire barrier as recited in claim 53, wherein the vehicle includes an inner panel, and wherein the two or more layers of fire resistant fabric are positioned between the outer shell and the inner panel of the vehicle.

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61. (Previously presented) The ballistic fire barrier as recited in claim 53, wherein the vehicle is an aircraft.

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74. (Currently Amended) ~~The method as recited in claim 70, wherein the vehicle is an aircraft.~~ A method for protecting objects in an interior of a vehicle from damage and injury, the vehicle having an outer shell defining the interior of the vehicle, the method comprising:

positioning at least one layer of fire resistant fabric in the interior of the vehicle towards the outer shell of the vehicle with respect to the interior of the vehicle;

attaching the at least one layer of fire resistant fabric to the vehicle such that the at least one layer of fire resistant fabric is substantially positioned at a finite distance away from the outer shell of the vehicle, the at least one layer of fabric capable of absorbing kinetic energy of a fragment or a projectile and composed of one or more ballistic material selected from a group consisting of aramid, polyethylene and phenylenebenzole; and

wherein the vehicle is an aircraft.

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77. (Currently Amended) ~~The method as recited in claim 70, wherein the at least one layer of fire resistant fabric includes two or more plies, a first of the two or more plies being a felt and a second of the two or more plies including woven fibers, the first of the two or more plies being positioned outward of the second of the two or more plies with respect to the interior of the vehicle.~~ A method for protecting objects in an interior of a vehicle

from damage and injury, the vehicle having an outer shell defining the interior of the vehicle, the method comprising:

positioning at least one layer of fire resistant fabric in the interior of the vehicle towards the outer shell of the vehicle with respect to the interior of the vehicle;

attaching the at least one layer of fire resistant fabric to the vehicle such that the at least one layer of fire resistant fabric is substantially positioned at a finite distance away from the outer shell of the vehicle, the at least one layer of fabric capable of absorbing kinetic energy of a fragment or a projectile and composed of one or more ballistic material selected from a group consisting of aramid, polyethylene and phenylenebenzole; and

wherein the at least one layer of fire resistant fabric includes two or more plies, a first of the two or more plies being a felt and a second of the two or more plies including woven fibers, the first of the two or more plies being positioned outward of the second of the two or more plies with respect to the interior of the vehicle.

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